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- heaven. Behold they are as swarming locusts, which spread abroad and fly
17 away. Behold thy coins glitter as locusts, and thy satraps are as young locusts,
which sit upon the walls upon a chilly day, which, when the sun breaks forth
upon them, disperse, and the place whither they have fled is not known.
18 Broken are thy strong men, O king of Assyria. The people of thy armies are
in exile. Thy people are scattered upon the mountains and there is no one
19 gathering them. There is no one who mourns for thy hurt. Thy wound is
deadly. All who hear the report of thee shall clap their hands over thee; they
rejoice, for upon whom hath not the blow of thy iniquity passed continually?

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A TRANSLATION OF THE VULGATE OF THE PROPHECY OF NAHUM ¹

CHAPTER I.

- 1 The burden of Nineveh; the record of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.
- 2 A jealous one is God, and an avenger is the Lord, and one having wrath; an
avenger is the Lord against his adversaries, and angry is he with his enemies.
- 3 The Lord is patient and great in strength, and cleansing he will not make
guiltless. The Lord is in the tempest, and in the whirlwind are his ways, and
- 4 clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebuketh the sea and maketh it dry, and
all the rivers he reduceth to a desert. Bashan is enfeebled, and Carmel, and the
- 5 flower of Lebanon droopeth. Mountains are shaken by him, and hills are for-
saken; and the earth quaketh at his presence, both the world and all dwellers
- 6 therein. In the presence of his indignation who shall stand, and who shall
resist in the wrath of his fury? His indignation is poured out as fire, and the
- 7 rocks are torn asunder by him. The Lord is good, and strengtheneth much in
- 8 the day of distress; and he knoweth those hoping in him. And in a flood
passing over, he will make an end of her place; and darkness shall pursue his
- 9 enemies. What devise ye against the Lord? He will make an end; distress
- 10 shall not arise twice. Because as thorns entwine themselves, so is the revelling
11 of those drinking together; they shall be consumed as stubble fully dry. From
thee shall go forth a deviser of evil against the Lord, one occupied in mind
- 12 with wrong-doing. Thus saith the Lord: Though they may be complete, and
so many, so also they are shorn, and he will pass through. I have afflicted

¹The text used is that of Sixtus V. and Clement VIII.

13 thee, and I will afflict thee no more. And now I will break in pieces his rod
 14 from off thy back, and thy bonds I will burst asunder. And the Lord will
 command concerning thee, that no more shall be sown of thy name ; from the
 house of thy God I will destroy graven and molten images, I will make thy
 15 grave, because thou art unhonored. Behold upon the mountains the feet of
 the bearer of glad tidings, and the proclaimer of peace ! Celebrate, O Judah,
 thy feasts, and render thy vows, for Belial shall not pass through thee again ;
 he is utterly perished.

CHAPTER II.

1 He is coming up to disperse before thee, to guard the blockade ; watch the
 2 way, strengthen greatly the loins, make power firm exceedingly. Because the
 Lord restoreth the pride of Jacob as the pride of Israel ; for ravagers have
 3 put them to flight, and their scions they have spoiled. The shield of his
 heroes is fiery, the men of the army are in scarlet ; the reins of the chariot are
 4 flaming in the day of his preparation, and the charioteers are stupefied. They
 are confused in the streets ; the four-horse chariots pass together in the broad
 ways ; their appearance is like torches, like flashes of lightning they run to
 5 and fro. He will remember his heroes, they shall fall down in their goings ;
 6 they shall mount quickly to her walls, and the shelter will be prepared. The
 gates of the rivers are opened, and the temple is overthrown to the foundation.
 7 And the captive soldier is led away, and his maids threaten, moaning as doves,
 8 murmuring in their hearts. And Nineveh—as a pool of water are her waters,
 9 yet they flee away. Stand ! stand ! and no one turneth back. Plunder silver,
 10 plunder gold ; and there is no end of riches from all desirable vessels. She is
 scattered, and cleft, and torn ; and heart melting, and weakness of knees, and
 a failing in all loins, and the faces of all of them are as the blackness of a pot.
 11 Where is the den of the lions, and the feeding-place of the lion's whelps, to
 which the lion goeth that he may walk there, the lion's whelp, and no one
 12 causeth alarm ? The lion seized enough for his whelps, and slew for his
 13 lionesses ; and filled his lair with spoil and his resting-place with prey. Behold
 I [am coming] unto thee, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will set on fire even
 to smoke thy four-horse chariots, and the sword shall consume thy young
 lions, and I will banish thy spoils from the earth, and the voice of thy mes-
 sengers shall be heard no more.

CHAPTER III.

1 Woe, city of blood, full of falsehood, abounding in cruelty ! The prey shall
 2 not depart from thee. The sound of the whip, and the sound of the whirl of
 wheels, and of horse snorting, and four-horse chariot glowing, and horseman
 3 mounting. And glittering sword, and flashing spear, and a multitude of slain,
 and a grievous overthrow ; there is no end of corpses, and they fall down over
 4 their bodies. Because of the multitude of the fornications of the harlot,
 showy and agreeable, and possessing enchantments, who selleth nations in her
 5 fornications, and households in her enchantments. Behold I [am coming]

unto thee, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will uncover thy shame in thy face, and I will show thy nakedness to the nations, and to kingdoms thy disgrace.

6 And I will cast upon thee abominations, and bring upon thee insults, and set
 7 thee for an example. And it shall be that every one who shall see thee, shall
 start back from thee and say: Nineveh is laid waste. Who will shake the
 8 head over thee? Whence shall I seek a comforter for thee? Art thou better
 than Alexandria of the peoples, that dwelleth amid the rivers? Waters are in
 9 her circuit; whose riches is the sea; of water are her walls. Ethiopia is her
 strength, and Egypt, and there is no end. Africa and Libya were among thy
 10 help. But even she in removal was led into captivity; her babes were dashed
 in pieces at the head of all the streets, and over her honored men they cast the
 11 lot, and all her great men were bound in chains. And thou therefore shalt be
 12 drunken, and shalt be despised; and thou shalt seek aid from the enemy. All
 thy fortresses are as fig trees with their unripe figs; if shaken they fall into
 13 the mouth of the eater. Behold thy people are women in the midst of thee:
 to thine enemies the gates of thy land shall be thrown wide open, fire shall
 14 devour thy bars. Draw for thyself water for the siege, build up thy fortresses,
 15 go into the clay and tread, kneading thoroughly get brick. There fire shall
 consume thee. Thou shalt perish by the sword; it shall devour thee as doth
 16 the locust. Assemble together as the locust, multiply as the locust. Thou
 hast made thy commerce more than are the stars of heaven; the locust spread-
 17 eth out and flieth away. Thy guards are as locusts, and thy little ones as the
 locusts of locusts, which settle down in the hedges on a cold day; the sun
 18 riseth and they fly away and their place where they are is not known. Thy
 shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria; thy princes are buried, thy people lie
 19 hid in the mountains and there is no one to gather them. Thy grief is not
 concealed, thy wound is deadly, all who hear thy report press together the
 hand over thee, for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?

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